

# Two goal margin flatters United

By MICHAEL KNOX

**Wycombe Wanderers 0, Oxford United 2**

WYCOMBE Wanderers, following their 7-0 thrashing of North Shields, came down to earth on Monday night, when they were defeated 2-0 in a "private practice match" against Oxford United at Loakes Park.

I use the term advisely because according to some obscure F.A. rule concerning matches played in the 14 days before the start of the season, Wycombe were not allowed to call the match a 'friendly'. Not only that. The rule also states that admission should be free, and that no programmes may be sold. So an estimated crowd of 1,200 saw the game free. To cover expenses Wycombe had a collection during the interval.

Although they lost 2-0, Wycombe can be highly satisfied with their performance, for a draw was the least they deserved.

They had one effort disallowed and two more entered the side netting and over the 90 minutes, they enjoyed the territorial advantage.

New mid-field player Ian Brothers from St. Albans,

was outstanding after a shaky start and linked well with club captain Larry Pritchard, who was once again at the centre of things. Former Enfield defenders Roger Grant and Phil Wood knitted in nicely, while lanky centre-half Pete Anderson, certainly dominated in the air.

Oxford, with Ken Skeen and Derek Clarke buzzing around the field, started well and opened the scoring in the 14th minute, when Lowe headed in Flay's far post cross from the left.

But Wycombe dominated



**KEITH SEARLE**

... effort disallowed

the rest of the half. Keith Searle had a fine shot disallowed for off-side, and also hit the side netting. This same fate also occurred to winger Tony Price, who had a promising outing.

In a second half interspersed with substitutions, the excitement went out of the game — that is until seven minutes from time. Young goalkeeper Paul Barron stayed rooted to his line as Flay lobbed the ball into the middle of the penalty area. This allowed Clarke to run in and chest home United's second goal for a flattering victory.

**WYCOMBE:** P. Barron; Gamblin (sub: Rundle 67 mins), Grant, Wood, Anderson (sub: Bullock 45 mins), Brothers (sub: Williams 70 mins), Horseman, Pritchard, Searle, Holifield, Price (sub: Perrin 62 mins).

**OXFORD UNITED:** K. Thomas; J. Light, S. Flay, S. Aylott, R. Smithson, M. Lowe, J. Campbell (sub: Hatch 72 mins), K. Skeen, D. Clarke, G. Bray, B. Jeffrey (sub: R. Pickett 45 mins).

**Half-time 0-1. Scorers:** Lowe (14 mins), D. Clarke (83 mins).